A

LETTER

From a Gentleman at

St. *GERMAINS*,

To his Friend in

LONDON.

Printed in the Year 1697.

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SIR,

IN the midſt of our Diſmal Apprehenſions of a War, which had almoſt Unpeopl'd this Country, laid waſte its Tillage and Vineyards, put an end to its Manufactures, (in a great meaſure) by transferring them to other Countries; in a word, a War which threatned the Ruine of the French Trade both at home and abroad, and which if the Confederates could have maintain'd but two years longer, in all probabi-

lity would have reduc'd this Monarchy to almoſt as low a Condition as that of *Spain*; I ſay, in the midſt of ſuch a frightful Proſpect, you will eaſily believe it is a moſt agreeable ſurpriſe to them, to find themſelves now (by the ill Conduct of their Neighbours) already deliver'd from all theſe impendent Miſchiefs: For by the imprudent haſte the Allies have made in the Diſcharge of their Troops, the French King hath the opportunity of furniſhing himſelf with the beſt Foot that were ever yet known in the World, and is now at liberty to Employ his own Subjects in Tillage, Vineyards, and Manufactures, by which means, in a ſmall time, he may reaſonably expect to Reſtore his Trade to its former flouriſhing State: And if they are thus pleas'd with the happy Change of their Condition, you will give our Court leave to be no leſs Tranſported with the Accounts they have by the laſt Poſts of the preſent poſture of Affairs in *London*.

I muſt confeſs, I have long promis'd my ſelf, whenever a Peace ſhould be declar'd between *France* and *England*, our Court at *St. Germains* might by a prudent, and carefull Conduct, profit themſelves very much of the inveterate Animoſities between the two conteſting Parties for the Miniſtry there; And (thô they neither of them intend ſuch a Conſequence of their Quarrel) that it might at ſome time happen, whilſt they are Playing for this Stake of Government, we may have a fair Game to Beaſt 'em Both. But

But I muſt own, I did think this would have been a Work of more time; I did not imagine any thing like this could happen, before the French Troops were Disbanded, the Towns deliver'd up, or any other part of the Peace perform'd: But that part of it which hath already enabl'd the King of *France* to maintain another years War, if he ſhould ſo think fit, I mean, the opening of the Trade with him. This is ſo Amazing a Management, That Thinking Men can ſcarce believe it other than a Dream: However, moſt of us are ſo eaſie to entertain every appearance of Hope, that this News hath occaſion'd a great Change in the Countenances of our Court: The King himſelf takes other Ayres upon him than he hath been ſeen to do of late; Is much in Whiſpers, with *Mac*——— *Fitz*——— and *O*———, which we here call a Cabinet; And the poor Queen, who upon the firſt Knowledge of the intended Peace, every Night, like King *David*, *Water'd her Couch with her Tears*, hath now reaſſum'd the pointed Glories of her Eyes; appears all Gay, is always preſent at Balls, Plays, *&c.* Orders are given out for us to Liquor our Jack-Boots, Maſſes are ſaid day and night for our Succeſs; and we talk with Aſſurance, that we ſhall ſhortly have as quiet and uncontеſted a Reſtauration as that in 1660: I own I cannot be Sanguine at this rate, for thô it gives great Encouragement to ſee a People impos'd upon ſo far by an Artificial Argument, as to believe Black

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is White, and in a Point upon which their All depends; yet I look upon it only as a ſurpriſe, which will not be able to maintain the Ground it hath got, againſt a mature and deliberate Conſideration, the Antient Obſervers have left to us as a Proverb, *That nothing Violent is Laſting:* I know my Countrymen are apt to be ſurpriz'd into Miſtakes, but they grow more reaſonable upon thinking, as we found to our Coſts about Ten years ſince; and this would be ſo general a Ruin, that I fear there are too many concern'd to ſuffer it eaſily. And I ſhould fancy, it is impoſſible for them, (when they come ſoberly to Reflect upon their Danger from *Le Hogue*, *Calais*, the ſeveral Debarkments in *Ireland*, and the *P.* of *O.*'s Deſcent, in every of which Caſes, the Engliſh were Maſters of the Sea) to believe themſelves ſafe without a Land-Force, nor with any other Land-Force than Diſciplin'd Troops againſt Diſciplin'd Troops, certainly they cannot. The State of the Caſe, I take to be, That the old Deſigning K——s have found this way to make themſelves Courted by the Government, and have Trump'd up theſe Specious Fears and Jealouſies of Liberty, to draw in a ſort of Men, who wiſh better to their Intereſt, then they Judge of it, to ſtrengthen their Party; and I am apt to think, the real Conteſt is, a Struggle between the Two Contending Parties, which of them ſhall appear the moſt able and ſucceſsful in the Management of the preſent Argument on foot, For and againſt an Army; and con-

consequently which of them shall be esteem'd most useful by their Masters; for that any who are for the present Government (which I fear most of the People of *England* are) can be for no Army in their present Circumstances, is Ridiculous to believe.

However it is our part to improve this Occasion to our Service as far as we can, and in order to this, the K. and Q. direct first, That you make all the Compliments imaginable from them to the Author of the Argument *Against a Standing Army, &c.* And (because nothing can please him so much as to be thought Important) you are to tell him, They own all the Hopes they have of their Restauration to His Conduct, and to the most Eloquent Perswasion of his Book, That they shall always Treat him as their Redeemer, and that he shall not only be the *Alb——l*, but the *Cl——n* too of their Government: Their Supreme Minister both in Military and Civil Affairs, (as being equally Capable of both.) Perhaps you will think this Ridiculous, and truly it would be so to any other; but as to this Gentleman, believe me you cannot be too Extravagant, neither in your Praises of him, nor Promises to him: For as nothing is so Impossible, but that he will hope to make you believe it; so on the other hand, nothing is so Impossible neither, but you may make him believe, when it humours his Vanity. However his malicious Wit, and indefatigable Industry to revenge himself of his

his late Friends, may be of use to us, if prudently managed. But to that End let him write and act for us in a Mask, for I fancy his Credit is so low on every side, that he will never be able to do our Enemies any considerable Mischief barefac'd; Flatter and Promise all his Friends too, without measure, from the *S—ch* Conjurer down to the little dirty School Boy; make 'em all Secretaries of State, or what else they have most fancy for. It is a cheap way of Listing Auxiliaries; and Fools are more pleased with immense Hopes, than moderate Certainties.

Let our Friends industriously sollicit in the Court of *Requests*, Coffee, Chocolate Houses, *&c.* and by being all Things to all Men, they will gain some.

Those Whigs who are State Phanaticks, and prefer the Popular Project of being against an Army, to the Real Safety of the People whom they pretend to Protect, you are to praise for their Steadiness to their former Principles; clap them on the Back, and call them Brave *Englishmen*, true *Englishmen*.

The City you are to fright with that dismal Havock that Laced Coats and Red Stockings will make amongst their Wives and Daughters, for Women are provoked by the sight of the Red to Love, as Turky Cocks are to Anger; and you are to tell 'em, It will be too hard for those *Ragamuffins in Red* to run away with their Women, whilst the *D——ch* on the other hand run away with their Trade.

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Make the Country Squires ſenſible of the moſt deplorable Havock theſe *Robbers* of *Hen-rooſts* will make amongſt the Poultry; how dear they will make Eggs: Tell 'em, how exactly theſe Diſciplined Troops have learned of the *French* to ſhoot flying; and that not a Partridge, Pheaſant, Woodcock, *&c.* will live in quiet for 'em, which perhaps may weigh more with ſome of them than a *French* Invaſion.

Enrage the Clergy with Reminding them of the Decreaſe of their Dominion; tell 'em, That now the Sword of Juſtice walks into Conventicles, not to Correct 'em, but to Compliment 'em. How can they bear to ſee all thoſe pleaſing and profitable Laws againſt Diſſenters laid aſleep! Remember them of their old Maxim, "That it is better to have Papiſts govern, than "Presbyterians. And that they may not apprehend too much, that their Part in the late Revolution will be remembred, tell 'em, That K. *James* hath often been heard to ſay, That thô indeed the Church of *E*———, like St. *Peter*, denied their Maſter upon the Pr—— of *O*——'s coming over; yet, like that holy Saint too, they ſoon repented of it, and immediately went out and wept bitterly for it; and that ſome of them had ſufficiently Expiated for that Offence by Service ſince. Thô it proved not to have the Succeſs they intended; and withall let 'em know, it is a Standing Rule in all wiſe Courts, That as one Diſſervice ſhall de-

ſtroy the Merit of a Thouſand paſt Services, ſo no paſt Injuries ſhall be remembred if you can ſerve a preſent Turn.

Irritate all thoſe who came over with the Pr— of *O*———, and are unrewarded; Remind the Whigs of their being disbanded when there was no further uſe of them; It may prove a ſeaſonable precedent for them to disband the Army; And as *Timon* of *Athens* ſays, "May they con-"found the Army, and then——.

Endeavour to make the People impatient of their Taxes, the *Spartan* Politicians jealous of their Liberties, and the Ladies ſenſible of the neglect of their Beauty, and what Gallantries they may expect from us who have been Bred ſo long in *France*. And now I name Ladies, Pray let Mrs. *L*——*y* lay hold upon the young *M*—*rs*, with her Troop of Catholick kind Beauties: We are told much of the Progreſs of her Arms, and that ſhe hath by a Detachement of her Troops, made two of their Grandees Priſoners: Thank her for her young Lord's Converſion, who Labours in our Intereſts more than ye all, and I hear his Labour of Love is not in vain amongſt the young Sparks of his acquaintance; but ſhe muſt take Care to manage him warily, for it is ſaid, That he hath all the K——ve of his Grandfather without any of his Underſtanding.

Let ſome Apoſtles be ſent to Coffee-Houſes to Preach up, and Argue for the *Roman* and *Lacedemonian*

monian Schemes of Government; for in our Caſe, *The furtheſt way about will be the neareſt way home*, (according to the Proverb,) And it was upon this Point, that the Reſtauration was brought about in 1660; for if you can make my Countrymen out of their Wits one way, you may the more eaſily make 'em ſo any other way. Let our Friends Amuſe our Enemies, by not appearing violent againſt any Laws which forbid Correſponding with K. *J.* and the return of *Jacobites* from *France*, nay not even againſt an Act of Abjuration; for if we can by theſe Shadows of Security, prevail with them to Disband the Army, we ſhall ſoon be in a Condition to Disband thoſe Laws; and if by any of theſe Methods above-mention'd, you find that ye gain Ground, we will then conſider what is next to be done; in the mean time I wiſh you good luck, and am,

Yours, &c.

POSTSCRIPT.

I Had forgot to tell you, that ſince this News from *England*, Orders are given out here to haſten the delivery of all the Towns, to the Confederares, and likewiſe immediately to Disband a great part of the Army, hoping thereby to take away

away all Jealousies from the English, and to Confirm 'em in their Security; For the French wisely consider, That if by this means they can Advance the present Project on Foot amongst the English, of a Militia; and that they can surprize them, while they are in this mad Fit, the Towns (were they twice as many) will quickly be their own again. I had forgot likewise to tell you, That you are to Advise our Friends, that they appear not too warm in publick Discourse against Armies, it will allarm our Enemies, and awaken them out of their Lethargy, if they are not infatuated, to see declared *Jacobites* so concern'd for English Liberty, and perhaps put them upon thinking that they have some other Motive which makes them so unkind to their old Mistress, *A Standing Army.*

FINIS.

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